

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

EA-10 /107 W

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R 061700Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6759

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS DUBLIN 807

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EI

SUBJECT: PRESS LEAKS ON US/EC CONSULTATIONS

1. THE "IRISH INDEPENDENT", A CONSERVATIVE DUBLIN MORNING NEWS-PAPER, HAS A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE MAY 6 ON FIONA FITZGERALD'S EMBARRASSMENT OVER PRESS LEAKS. HE HAS EXPRESSED SIMILAR FEELINGS TO US IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS. TEXT OF PRESS REPORT FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT.

2. "IN AN EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENT AT YESTERDAY'S COUNCIL OF EEC FOREIGN MINISTERS THE PRESIDENT, DR. FITZGERALD, REBUKED THE DANISH
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER, MR. IVAR NORGAAARD, FOR LEAKING INFORMATION

TO THE PRESS ABOUT SECRET MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS. IT IS MOST UN-
USUAL FOR ONE MINISTER TO REPRIMAND ANOTHER AND EVEN STRANGER FOR
SUCH A DRESSING-DOWN TO COME FROM THE PRESIDENT. SPECIFICALLY,
DR. FITZGERALD ACCUSED MR. NORGAARD OF TELLING THE PRESS ABOUT EEC
PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS IN PORTUGAL. DR. FITZGERALD
ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO RECENT LEAKS ABOUT MESSAGES THE UNITED
STATES HAS SENT TO DUBLIN CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY'S ATTITUDE ABOUT
THE VIETNAM SITUATION. TWO SUCH LEAKS HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT WEEKS,
ONE OF WHICH CERTAINLY CAME FROM DANISH SOURCES. DR. FITZGERALD
IS KNOWN TO BE HIGHLY EMBARRASSED ABOUT THESE LEAKS, FEARING THAT
IT WILL GIVE IRELAND A BAD REPUTATION IN THE EYES OF THE AMERICANS.
MR. NORGAARD REPLIED SHARPLY THAT, WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT HE SPOKE
TO JOURNALISTS, HE WAS ONLY GIVING HIS OWN VIEWS ABOUT HOW THE EEC
SHOULD STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONS WITH PROTUGAL--AND WAS NOT REPORTING
ANYTHING HIS MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES MIGHT HAVE SAID DURING THE
COURSE OF THE MEETING. BUT CERTAINLY THE EPISODE STRAINED RELAT-
IONS BETWEEN THE TWO MEN AND AFTER THE MEETING THEY WERE SEEN
TALKING EARNESTLY." END TEXT.
REND AHL

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NNN

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